

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1290
By Newton

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Brenda B. McKenzie for
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as business and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Brenda B. McKenzie, who was recently inducted into the College of Business Administration, Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, with a phenomenal track record for developing start-up businesses and putting them on the path to success, Ms. McKenzie has managed the financial and organizational growth of companies expanding into seventeen states with more than 1,500 employees and revenues grossing more than \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Brenda McKenzie embarked upon her successful career as an entrepreneur when she was part of a team that developed and operated Rental World, a rent-to-own business in the southeastern United States, starting with one store and growing to forty-five stores before being sold to a competitor in 1987; and

WHEREAS, within the next few years, Ms. McKenzie went on to co-found National Rentals and United Rentals, stores that quickly expanded throughout the Midwest, and McKenzie Check Advance, the company that operates nationally under the trade names of National Cash Advance and United Cash Advance; in 1999, Ms. McKenzie sold McKenzie Cash Advance to Advance America of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, currently, Brenda McKenzie serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Brenda McKenzie & Associates, M&B Jewelry Company, Railcar Innovations, Railcar Associates, and Railcar Custom Leasing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McKenzie still finds time to lend her remarkable talents to such notable causes as the University of Tennessee Development Council, the University of Tennessee Step-Up Committee, the University of Tennessee Alliance of Women Philanthropists, the University of Chattanooga Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Advisory Board for the College of Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Ms. McKenzie provided the operating funds for the Mary Harris Distinguished Professorship in Entrepreneurship in the College of Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited person of the highest order, Ms. McKenzie devotes much of her spare time to innumerable humanitarian and philanthropic organizations, including Cleveland 100 and Christmas Memories, a non-profit organization for underprivileged children, two endeavors which Ms. McKenzie helped found; and

WHEREAS, for her service to her fellow citizens in her hometown of Cleveland, Ms. McKenzie was awarded the prestigious 2001 Sertoma Service to Mankind Award; and

WHEREAS, Brenda McKenzie epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McKenzie is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her two children, Ashley and Toby McKenzie; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Brenda B. McKenzie for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Brenda B. McKenzie upon her induction into the College of Business Administration, Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, honor and commend her for her meritorious service to the state of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.